



METHUEN

Essex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Methuen is a community of 40,000 people in the Lower Merrimack Valley. Its unofficial nickname, "the City known as the Town" reflects the growth and the diversity within the community. Voters in 1993 again amended the town charter to enact a mayor and 9 city councilors form of government and Methuen's first mayor since

1921 took office in January of 1994.

Methuen played a significant role in this country's industrial revolution, which began in the Merrimack Valley. In the mid-to late-19th century, mills along the Spicket River and Spicket Falls produced hats, shoes and textiles. Legacies of industrial wealth are seen today not only in the mill buildings, but also in the estate and civic architecture of Methuen's millionaires, the Searles, Tenney and Nevins families. The granite walls and turrets extending through central Methuen are prominent community features and monuments to the millionaire benefactors as well as to the immigrant laborers who built them 100 years ago.

Methuen combines farm settings with suburban sub-divisions and urban neighborhoods. Methuen Mall is a regional shopping center and Methuen's industrial parks are home to companies that include Colombo, McKesson, MicroTouch and Nabisco among others. Methuen's attractions include the Memorial Music Hall, which features the first concert organ in the United States. The Organ Hall hosts a Wednesday evening recital series during the summer months and sponsors special event concerts throughout the year.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Dracut on the west; Pelham and Salem, New Hampshire, on the northwest and north; Haverhill on the northeast; North Andover on the southeast; and Lawrence and Andover on the south. Methuen is 11 miles north of Lowell; 27 miles north of Boston; 26 miles from Manchester, New Hampshire; and 236 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 23.09 sq. miles

Land Area: 22.41 sq. miles

Population: 39,990

Density: 1,784 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Lawrence Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lawrence, Ayers Village, South Groveland, Lowell

Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lawrence



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 794-3213

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Town Council

Town Manager

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1726

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	22,177		
Democrats	12,516	56.4	%
Republicans	3,729	16.8	%
Other parties	4	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,928	26.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Methuen city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	43,789	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	43,789	100.0
Male.....	20,967	47.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	4,221	9.6
Female.....	22,822	52.1	Mexican.....	70	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,749	6.3	Puerto Rican.....	1,691	3.9
5 to 9 years.....	3,137	7.2	Cuban.....	73	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	3,192	7.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	2,387	5.5
15 to 19 years.....	2,718	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	39,568	90.4
20 to 24 years.....	2,232	5.1	White alone.....	37,561	85.8
25 to 34 years.....	5,962	13.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	7,625	17.4	Total population.....	43,789	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	5,908	13.5	In households.....	43,306	98.9
55 to 59 years.....	2,068	4.7	Householder.....	16,532	37.8
60 to 64 years.....	1,489	3.4	Spouse.....	8,815	20.1
65 to 74 years.....	3,089	7.1	Child.....	13,889	31.7
75 to 84 years.....	2,728	6.2	Own child under 18 years.....	10,008	22.9
85 years and over.....	902	2.1	Other relatives.....	2,352	5.4
Median age (years).....	37.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	674	1.5
18 years and over.....	32,958	75.3	Nonrelatives.....	1,718	3.9
Male.....	15,337	35.0	Unmarried partner.....	854	2.0
Female.....	17,621	40.2	In group quarters.....	483	1.1
21 years and over.....	31,543	72.0	Institutionalized population.....	319	0.7
62 years and over.....	7,591	17.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	164	0.4
65 years and over.....	6,719	15.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	2,539	5.8	Total households.....	16,532	100.0
Female.....	4,180	9.5	Family households (families).....	11,541	69.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	5,478	33.1
One race.....	42,990	98.2	Married-couple family.....	8,815	53.3
White.....	39,126	89.4	With own children under 18 years.....	4,142	25.1
Black or African American.....	591	1.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,020	12.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	97	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,061	6.4
Asian.....	1,040	2.4	Nonfamily households.....	4,991	30.2
Asian Indian.....	265	0.6	Householder living alone.....	4,181	25.3
Chinese.....	154	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,917	11.6
Filipino.....	32	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,885	35.6
Japanese.....	19	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	4,696	28.4
Korean.....	177	0.4	Average household size.....	2.62	(X)
Vietnamese.....	277	0.6	Average family size.....	3.17	(X)
Other Asian ¹	116	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	-	Total housing units.....	16,885	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	16,532	97.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	353	2.1
Samoa.....	3	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	37	0.2
Some other race.....	2,131	4.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	799	1.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	16,532	100.0
White.....	39,819	90.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	11,881	71.9
Black or African American.....	770	1.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	4,651	28.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	193	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.79	(X)
Asian.....	1,168	2.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.19	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	31	0.1			
Some other race.....	2,629	6.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	403
Conventional Federal:	42

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	2
Federal (Section 8):	236



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Methuen is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 28, 110, 113 and 213, and Interstate Routes 93 and 495.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from the neighboring towns of Andover (travel time 47-51 min.; 135 MBTA parking spaces) and Lawrence (travel time 52-57 min.; 164 spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Methuen is a member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), which provides fixed route service within Methuen and to Lawrence. The MVRTA also provides offers paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Lawrence Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility located in North Andover, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 3,901' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Flight Line offers service to Logan Airport and Manchester Airport.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Holy Family Hospital & Medical Center

Long Term Care

Blenwood Nursing Home

Broadway Convalescent Home

Henry C. Nevins Home, Inc.

Mcgowan Nursing Home

Methuen Nursing & Rehab. Center

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Halcyon House Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.